NUMB. CCCCXXVII.

The SPECTATOR.

Quantum a rerum turpitudine abes, tantum Te a verborum libertate ſejungas. Tull.

Thurſday, July 10. 1712.

IT is a certain Sign of an ill Heart to be inclin'd to Defamation. They who are harmleſs and innocent, can have no Gratification that way; but it ever ariſes from a Neglect of what is laudable in a Man's ſelf, and an Impatience of ſeeing it in another. Elſe why ſhould Virtue provoke? Why ſhould Beauty diſpleaſe in ſuch a Degree, that a Man given to Scandal never lets the Mention of either paſs by him without offering ſomething to the Diminution of it? A Lady the other Day at a Viſit being attack'd ſomewhat rudely by one, whoſe own Character has been very roughly treated, anſwer'd a great deal of Heat and Intemperance very calmly, *Good Madam, ſpare me, who am none of your Match; I ſpeak Ill of no body, and it is a new thing to me to be ſpoken Ill of.* Little Minds think Fame conſiſts in the Number of Votes they have on their Side among the Multitude, whereas it is really the inſeparable Follower of good and worthy Actions. Fame is as natural a Follower of Merit, as a Shadow is of a Body. It is true, when Crowds preſs upon you, this Shadow cannot be ſeen, but when they ſeparate from around you, it will again appear. The Lazy, the Idle, and the Froward, are the Perſons who are moſt pleas'd with the little Tales which paſs about the Town to the Diſadvantage of the reſt of the World. Were it not for the Pleaſure of ſpeaking Ill, there are Numbers of People who are too lazy to go out of their own Houſes, and too ill-natur'd to open their Lips in Converſation. It was not a little diverting the other Day to obſerve a Lady reading a Poſt-Letter, and at theſe Words, *After all her Airs, he has heard ſome Story or other, and the Match is broke off*, give Orders in the midſt of her Reading, *Put to the Horſes.* That a young Woman of Merit has miſs'd an advantageous Settlement, was News not to be delay'd, leſt ſome Body elſe ſhould have given her malicious Acquaintance that Satisfaction before her. The Unwillingneſs to receive good Tidings is a Quality as inſeparable from a Scandal Bearer, as the Readineſs to divulge bad. But, alas, how wretchedly low and contemptible is that State of Mind, that cannot be pleas'd but by what is the Subject of Lamentation. This Temper has ever been in the higheſt Degree odious to gallant Spirits. The *Perſian* Soldier, who was heard reviling *Alexander* the Great, was well admoniſhed by his Officer; *Sir, You are paid to fight againſt* Alexander, *and not to rail at him.*

Cicero in one of his Pleadings, defending his Client from general Scandal, ſays very handſomely, and with much Reaſon, *There are many who have particular Engagements to the Proſecutor: There are many who are known to have Ill-will to him for whom I appear; there are many who are naturally addicted to Defamation, and envious of any Good to any Man, who may have contributed to ſpread Reports of this Kind: For nothing is ſo ſwift as Scandal, nothing is more eaſily ſent abroad, nothing received with more Welcome, nothing diffuſes it ſelf ſo univerſally. I ſhall not deſire, that if any Report to our Diſadvantage has any Ground for it, you would overlook or extenuate it: But if there be any thing advanced without a Perſon who can ſay whence he had it, or which is atteſted by one who forgot who told him it, or who had it from one of ſo little Conſideration that he did not then think it worth his Notice, all ſuch Teſtimonies as theſe, I know, you will think too ſlight to have any Credit againſt the Innocence and Honour of your Fellow-Citizen.* When an ill Report is traced, it very often vaniſhes among ſuch as the Orator has here recited. And how deſpicable a Creature muſt that be, who is in Pain for what paſſes among ſo frivolous a People? There is a Town in *Warwickſhire* of good Note, and formerly pretty famous for much Animoſity and Diſſention, the chief Families of which have now turned all their Whiſpers, Backbitings, Envies, and private Malices, into Mirth and Entertainment, by means of a peeviſh old Gentlewoman, known by the Title of the Lady *Blamamtle.* This Heroine had for many Years together out-done the whole Siſterhood of Goſſips in Invention, quick Utterance, and unprovoked Malice. This good Body is of a laſting Conſtitution, though extremely decay'd in her Eyes, and decrepid in her Feet. The two Circumſtances of being always at Home from her Lameneſs, and very attentive from her Blindneſs, make her Lodgings the Receptacle of all that paſſes in Town, Good or Bad; but for the latter, ſhe ſeems to have the better Memory. There is another Thing to be noted of her, which is, That as it is uſual with old People, ſhe has a livelier Memory of Things which paſs'd when ſhe was very young, than of late Years. Add to all this, that ſhe does not only not love any Body, but ſhe hates every Body. The Statue in *Rome* does not ſerve to vent Malice half ſo well, as this old Lady does to diſappoint it. She does not know the Author of any thing that is told her, but can readily repeat the Matter it ſelf; therefore, though ſhe expoſes all the whole Town, ſhe offends no one Body in it. She is ſo exquiſitely reſtleſs and peeviſh, that ſhe Quarrels with all about her, and ſometimes in a Freak will inſtantly change her Habitation. To in-

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dulge this Humour, she is led about the Grounds belonging to the same House she is in, and the Persons to whom she is to remove, being in the Plot, are ready to receive her at her own Chamber again. At stated Times, the Gentlewoman at whose House she supposes she is at the Time, is sent for to quarrel with, according to her common Custom: When they have a Mind to drive the Jest, she is immediately urged to that Degree, that she will board in a Family with which she has never yet been; and away she will go this Instant, and tell them all that the rest have been saying of them. By this Means she has been an Inhabitant of every House in the Place without stirring from the same Habitation; and the many Stories which every Body furnishes her with to favour that Deceit, make her the general Intelligencer of the Town of all that can be said by one Woman against another. Thus groundless Stories die away, and sometimes Truths are smothered under the general Word: When they have a Mind to discountenance a thing, Oh! that is in my Lady *Bluemantle*'s Memoirs.

Whoever receives Impressions to the Disadvantage of others without Examination, is to be had in no other Credit for Intelligence than this good Lady *Bluemantle*, who is subjected to have her Ears imposed upon for want of other Helps to better Information. Add to this, that other Scandal-bearers suspend the Use of these Faculties which she has lost, rather than apply them to do Justice to their Neighbours; and I think, for the Service of my fair Readers, to acquaint them, that there is a voluntary Lady *Bluemantle* at every Visit in Town.

ERRATA.

In Yesterday's Spectator, Col. 3. *Lin.* 19. *for* Taste *read* Table.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

AT the famous Water-Theatre of the late Ingenious Mr Winstanly, will be shown this Day 2 Flying Boys to attend the new Sea-Triumph; one with a Flaming Torch which plays a huge Sheet of Water out of the burning Fire, the other with a Neptune's Trident: And several other new Curiosities never shown before. It is shown for the Benefit of his Widow every Evening at 6 of the Clock. Boxes 2 s. 6 d. Pit 2 s. First Gallery 1 s. 6 d. Upper Gallery 6 d. It is at the lower End of Pickadilly, and is known by the Wind Mill on the Top of it.

Edward Maddox, who was above Ten Years Servant to the late Mr. Verdier, and after to his Widow, and she having off the Business, I have built a New Bagnio at the Blew and Gilt-Post in the Middle of Brownlow Street in Drury-Lane, which is made private and convenient either for Gentlemen or Ladies. I Cup with the same Instrument Mr. Verdier invented, and am the only Man that Cupp'd for him: And he that lives in Verdier's old House was never Servant to him, nor Cupp'd for him.

Any Gentlewoman or two that would be boarded at a creditable Place in Westminster, at a reasonable rate, may enquire at Mr. Lee's a Fishmonger, at the Sign of the Dolphin near Hungerford-Market in the Strand.

Charming Citron-Water lately imported from Barbadoes, is to be sold at Robin's Coffee-house in Exchange Alley.

Whereas John Prince, John Sadler, and William Iveil Mercers at the Sign of the Black-Lyon in King-street, Covent-Garden, have resolved to leave off the Mercers Trade, These are to give Notice, that at the said Shop are to be sold at very low Prizes all sorts of the newest fashion Gold and Silver Silks and Atlasses, flower'd and plain Velvets, Silk Brocades, flower'd and plain Sattins, Damasks, water'd Tabbies, Farendines and Mohairs, Shagreens, Sarlnets, Persians, Silk Night-Gowns, Thread-Sattins, Poplins, Norwich Crapes, Silk and other Drugets, Hair and Worsted Camblets, Hair Shags and Shalloons. N. B. The House and Shop is to be Lett.

These are to give Notice, That Daniel Delander, Watch-maker, Servant to Mr. Tompion, is removed from Devereux-Court into Fleet-street, between the Two Temple Gates.

At the old Warehouse, is just now made up a fresh Parcel of Morning-Gowns for Men and Women of Brocades, rich Damasks, Sattens, Callicoes and Stuffs, with very suitable Linnings, and will be sold much cheaper than the Shops can afford, the Goods being bought of People that broke. Several pretend to sell under the same Notion, but the greatest Choice and best Pennyworths is at the golden Sugar-Loaf right against the Horse at Charing-Cross, with the newest sort of Canvis and Quilted Petticoats.

At Mrs. Marshall's House in the Middle of Union-Street in Deptford, in the County of Kent, Gentlewomen and Children may be accomplish'd with all Sorts of Learning, and Boarded, at reasonable Rates.

Just publish'd, in a small Volume.

FOUR SERMONS. I. On the Death of Queen Mary, 1694. II. On the Death of the Duke of Glocester, 1700. III. On the Death of King William, 1701. IV. On the Queen's Accession to the Throne, in 1703. With a Preface. By William Lord Bishop of St. ASAPH. Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-lane. Price Six Pence.

The Bishop of St. ASAPH's Charge to the Clergy of that Diocese in 1710, and now made Publick by his Lordship's Permission. Printed by Sam. Buckley, and sold by D. Midwinter, at the three Crowns in St. Paul's Church-yard. Price Six Pence.

Lately Publish'd,

A Sermon on the Fast-Day, January the 16th, 1711-12. Against such as delight in War. By a Divine of the Church of England. The second Edition. Printed by Sam. Buckley, and Sold by A. Baldwin in Warwick-Lane. Price Three Pence.

The Distrest Mother. A Tragedy. As it is acted at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane by Her Majesty's Servants. Written by Mr. Philips. Printed for S. Buckley at the Dolphin in Little-Britain, and J. Tonson at Shakespear's Head against Catherine-street in the Strand.

Yesterday was publish'd, the 2d Part of

The Court and City Vagaries, or Intrigues of Both Sexes; Written by one of the Fair Sex. Price 6 d. Sold by John Baker in Pater Noster Row, where may be had the First Part: Price 6d. The History of Prince Mirabel, in 3 Parts. The General Cashier'd, a Play. Price 1 s. 6d. And, A Plot discover'd; or, The Protestant Succession in Danger, with the Character of a Popish Successor. Price 6d.

Just Publish'd,

The Infant's Lawyer: Or, the Law (Ancient and Modern) relating to Infants. Setting forth their Priviledges, their several Ages for divers Purposes; Guardians and Prochein ami, as to Suits and Defences by them; Actions brought by and against them, with the manner of Declarations and Pleadings; Fines and Recoveries, and other Matters of Record suffered or acknowledged by them, how reversable; Conveyances and Specialties, how bound by them or not; Contracts, Promises, &c. Also treating of Infant-Executors, Administrator durante minori Ætate; Actions and Suits brought by them and against them, with the manner of Declaring and Pleading. Likewise, of Devises by and to Infants, Apprentices, Custom of London, and Pleadings, Orphans, Tryals of Infancy, Pictions and Legacies, and Resolutions and Decrees at Common Law and Chancery concerning the same. With an Appendix of the Forms of Declarations and Pleading concerning Infants. The Second Edition: With many Additions of late adjudged Cases in Common Law and Chancery; and the Explication of all the late Statutes relating to Infants. Printed for St. John Baker, at Thavies-Inn-Gate in Holborn.

The highest Compounded Spirit of Lavender: The most Glorious (if the Expression may be us'd) Enlivening Scent and Flavour that can possibly be: In Vapours, sick Fits, Faintings, &c. smelt too, or drop't upon a bit of Loaf-Sugar, and eaten or dissolv'd in Wine, Coffee, Tea, or what Liquor you please, so charms the Spirits, delights the Gust, and gives such Airs to the Countenance, as are not to be imagin'd but by those that have try'd it. The meanest Sort of the thing is admir'd by most Gentlemen and Ladies, but this far more, as by far it exceeds it, to the gaining among all a more than common Esteem. Is sold only (in neat Flint-Bott'es fit for the Pocket) at 3 s. 6 d. each, at the Golden-Key in Warton's-Court, near Holborn-Bars.

An assured Cure for Leanness; which proceeds from a Cause that few know, but easily removed by an unparalell'd Specifick Tincture, which fortifies the Stomach, purifies the Blood, takes off Fretfulness in the Mind, occasions Rest and easy Sleep, and as certainly disposes and causes the Body to thrive and become plump and fleshy, if no manifest Distemper afflicts the Patients, as Water will quench Fire, 'tis also the best Remedy in Nature for all Chronick Diseases that take their Rise from a bad Digestion in the Stomach, which this Specifick Tincture infallibly rectifies, and thereby cures. It is pleasant to taste, and is sold only at Mr. Payn's Toyshop at the Angel and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard near Cheapside. Price 3 s. 6d. a Bottle with Directions.

The Vapours in Women infallibly Cured in an Instant, so as never to return again, by an admirable Chymical Secret, a few drops of which takes off a Fit in a Moment, dispels Dizziness, clears the Head, takes away all Swimming, Giddiness, Dimness of Sight, Flushings in the Face, &c. to a Miracle, and moreover certainly prevents the Vapours returning again, for by Rooting out the very Cause it perfectly Cures as Hundreds have experienc'd: It also strengthens the Stomach and Bowels, and causes Liveliness and settled Health. Is sold only at Mrs. Osborn's, Toy-shop, at the Ball and Crown under St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet-street, at 2 s. 6 d.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.

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